

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising: providing at least one bookmark for a voice mail message by a caller leaving the voice mail message.
2. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ creating a bookmarked message from the voice mail message and the at least one bookmark.
3. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, further comprising ~~the step of~~ playing the bookmarked message to a listener.
4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark segments the voice mail message according to one or more topics.
5. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark is used to mark one or more segments of the voice mail message as having one or more different degrees of importance.
6. (original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein a default degree of importance is associated with segments not otherwise marked.
7. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark corresponds to one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.
8. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a callback telephone number for the caller.
9. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a callback time and/or date to use when responding to the voice mail message.

10 (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a name of the caller.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

12. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is an e-mail address.

13. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a protection or confidentiality indicator.

14. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, further comprising ~~the step of~~ using the at least one bookmark to perform actions selectively on one or more segments of the voice mail message.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the selected segments are associated with a topic of the voice mail message.

16. (original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the selected segments have one or more different degrees of importance.

17. (original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the selected segments are associated with one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

18. (original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the actions comprise one or more of saving, deleting, forwarding, listening, skipping, or repeating the one or more segments.

19. (original) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the actions further comprise marking a selected segment as protected or confidential.

20. (original) The method according to Claim 19, further comprising forwarding the segment marked as protected or confidential to another party.

21. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein at least one of the special types of information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and where at least one of the actions comprises automatically establishing a connection to the URL.

22. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein ~~the creating the~~ bookmarked message step further comprises storing the at least one bookmark and the voice mail message separately as the bookmarked message.

23. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein ~~the creating the~~ bookmarked message step further comprises storing the at least one bookmark and the voice mail message intermingled as the bookmarked message.

24. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 3, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, for the bookmarked message, a number of the bookmarked segments in the voice mail message.

25. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, when playing the voice mail message, the different degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

26. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, when playing the voice mail message, a number of the segments in the different degrees of importance.

27. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, when playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

28. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein particular ones of the special types of information are required, and further comprising ~~the step of~~ prompting the caller to provide input for each particular one for which no bookmark is otherwise provided.

29. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of bookmarks are provided for the voice mail message by the caller, and further comprising ~~the step of~~ associating one or more audio cues with one or more of the bookmarks of the voice mail message.

30. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 29, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

playing the bookmarked message to a listener; and

incorporating the one or more associated audio cues along with respective portions of the voice mail message corresponding to the one or more of the bookmarks.

31. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 30, wherein ~~the step of~~ incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises incorporating each associated audio cue with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

32. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 30, wherein ~~the step of~~ incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises incorporating each associated audio cue in-line with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

33. (previously presented) A system for voice mail messages, comprising:
means for leaving a voice mail message by a caller; and
means for providing at least one bookmark for the voice mail message by the caller.

34. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, further comprising means for creating a bookmarked message from the voice mail message and the at least one bookmark.

35. (original) The system according to Claim 34, further comprising means for playing the bookmarked message to a listener.

36. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, wherein at least one bookmark segments the voice mail message according to one or more topics.

37. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, wherein at least one bookmark corresponds to one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

38. (original) The system according to Claim 37, wherein the special types of information comprise one or more of: (1) a callback telephone number for the caller; (2) a callback time at which to respond to the voice mail message; and/or (3) a callback date on which to respond to the voice mail message.

39. (original) The system according to Claim 37, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

40. (original) The system according to Claim 37, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a protection or confidentiality indicator.

41. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 34, further comprising means for using the at least one bookmark to perform actions selectively on one or more segments of the voice mail message.

42. (original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the selected segments are associated with a topic of the voice mail message.

43. (original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the selected segments have one or more different degrees of importance.

44. (original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the actions comprise one or more of saving, deleting, forwarding, listening, skipping, or repeating the one or more segments.

45. (original) The system according to Claim 44, wherein the actions further comprise marking a selected segment as protected or confidential.

46. (original) The system according to Claim 45, further comprising forwarding the marked segment to another party.

47. (original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the selected segments are associated with one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

48. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 47, wherein at least one of the special types of information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and where at least one of the actions comprises automatically establishing a connection to the URL.

49. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for announcing, for the bookmarked voice mail message, a number of the bookmarked segments in the voice mail message.

50. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 43, further comprising means for announcing, before playing the voice mail message, the different degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

51. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 37, further comprising means for announcing, after playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

52. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 37, wherein particular ones of the special types of information are required, and further comprising means for prompting the caller to provide input for each particular one for which no bookmark is otherwise provided.

53. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 34, wherein a plurality of bookmarks are provided for the voice mail message by the caller, and further comprising means for associating one or more audio cues with one or more of the bookmarks of the voice mail message.

54. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 53, further comprising:
means for playing the bookmarked message to a listener; and
means for incorporating the one or more associated audio cues along with respective portions of the voice mail message corresponding to the one or more of the bookmarks.

55. (original) The system according to Claim 54, wherein the means for incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises means for incorporating each associated audio cue with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

56. (original) The system according to Claim 54, wherein the means for incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises means for incorporating each associated audio cue in-line with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

57. (previously presented) A computer program product for voice mail messages, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:
computer-readable program code configured to create at least one bookmark for a voice mail message by a caller leaving the voice mail message.

58. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 82, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to play the bookmarked message to a listener.

59. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 57, wherein at least one bookmark segments the voice mail message according to one or more topics.

60. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 57, wherein at least one bookmark is used to mark one or more segments of the voice mail message as having one or more different degrees of importance.

61. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 60, wherein a default degree of importance is associated with segments not otherwise marked.

62. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 57, wherein at least one bookmark corresponds to one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

63. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 62, wherein the special types of information comprise one or more of: (1) a callback telephone number for the caller; (2) a callback time at which to respond to the voice mail message; and/or (3) a callback date on which to respond to the voice mail message.

64. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 62, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a name of the caller.

65. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 62, wherein at least one of the special types of information is an e-mail address.

66. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 62, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a protection or confidentiality indicator.

67. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 59, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to use the at least one bookmark to navigate from one topic of the voice mail message to another.

68. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 58, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to use the at least one bookmark to perform actions selectively on one or more segments of the voice mail message.

69. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 68, wherein the selected segments are associated with a topic of the voice mail message.

70. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 68, wherein the selected segments have one or more different degrees of importance.

71. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 68, wherein the actions comprise one or more of: saving a particular segment; deleting a particular segment; skipping a particular segment; forwarding a particular segment; listening to a particular segment; repeating playback of a particular segment; and marking a particular segment as protected or confidential prior to forwarding the marked segment to another party.

72. (original) The computer program product according to Claim 68, wherein the selected segments are associated with one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

73. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 72, wherein at least one of the special types of information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator

(URL) and where at least one of the actions comprises automatically establishing a connection to the URL.

74. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 58, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, for the bookmarked voice mail message, a number of the bookmarked segments in the voice mail message.

75. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 60, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, when playing the voice mail message, a number of the segments in the different degrees of importance.

76. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 62, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, after playing the voice mail message, a number of the special types of information in the voice mail message.

77. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 62, wherein particular ones of the special types of information are required, and further comprising computer-readable program code configured to prompt the caller to provide input for each particular one for which no bookmark is otherwise provided.

78. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 58, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to associate one or more audio cues with the at least one bookmark of the voice mail message.

79. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 78, further comprising:

computer-readable program code configured to play the bookmarked message to a listener; and

computer-readable program code configured to incorporate the one or more associated audio cues along with respective portions of the voice mail message corresponding to the at least one bookmark.

80. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 79, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to incorporate the one or more associated audio cues further comprises computer-readable program code configured to incorporate each associated audio cue with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

81. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 79, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to incorporate the one or more associated audio cues further comprises computer-readable program code configured to incorporate each associated audio cue in-line with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

82. (previously presented) The computer program product according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to create a bookmarked message from the voice mail message and the at least one bookmark.

83. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, before playing the voice mail message, the different degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

84. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, after playing the voice mail message, the different degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

85. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, before playing the voice mail message, a number of the segments in the different degrees of importance.

86. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, after playing the voice mail message, a number of the segments in the different degrees of importance.

87. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, before playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

88. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ announcing, after playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

89. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the caller provides a plurality of bookmarks for the voice mail message.

90. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, wherein the caller provides a plurality of bookmarks for the voice mail message.

91. (currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim ~~33~~ 57, wherein the caller provides a plurality of bookmarks for the voice mail message.